Let My People Go

"LET MY PEOPLE GO"

$

Exodus 3:10 9-10 And now the cry of anguish of the Israelite has reached me; I have also seen how the Egyptians are oppressing them. So come, I will send you to the Pharoh that you may bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.

(s

INTRD. "Go Down Moses" and "Deep River" express the longing of an enslaved people. The one, in response to an immediate need-freedom from chatel slavery; the othe in response to a universal yearning for immortality, as an escape from this world's limitations and suffer ings and death.

The appeal in both cases arises out of a helpless situation and is made to Almighty God, the only source of help for the helpless. "Man's extremities are God's opportunities."

Our theme for today is "Let My People Go".

The text-

I. What Moses learned in his helpless situation.

1. His experience with "force" and "riches"

Yet left utterly powerless to help his people!

Outs a frustrated world in spite of our advances in science and industry

Van Dusen: "God in These Times"

1. The advance of man's effective mastery over Nature has accomplished the unification of the world. Through multiplied and instant communication, through the world-wide dispersion of invention and education and culture, through interlocking commercial and financial interests, the peoples of the world live in continuous and intimate contact with others and their interests are largely one. And this unification had found its most significant expression—in the World War!

2. The advance of man's effective mastery over Nature has, for the first time in all human history, made thoroughly practicable the provision of adequate food, shelter, security, education, recreation, and a modest comfort for every single inhabitant of the Western world. And that possibility had taken actuality in—the present depression, with its immeasureable want, hardship, degradation and despair!

3. The advance of man's effective mastery over Nature has opened wide doorways to culture, acquaintance with the rich treasures of man's past, participation in the delicate and deep imponderables of the human spirit for all who will enter. And the most general response to that invitation has been—the movies, the radio and jazz!

4. The advance of man's effective mastery over Nature has promised modern man achievements and satisfactions beyond the wildest dreams of his forebears. And that promise had seen realization in the typical successful American of today —superficial, crude, blatant, confused, restless, inwardly dissatisfied.

I.2. Moses must have felt like that as he followed his flocks in the land of Median. Eighty years of effort on his part, and still his people were groaning down in Egypt. All he had done was of no avail.

THEN HE SAW THE BURNING BUSH and something happened God entered into the situation!

The wonder about it was not that the bush remained unconsumed or that God appeared, but that Moses became a changed man-he found the solution of his problem.

a. First he discovered that God had the same purpose-freedom for his people.

b. Secondly that his people had to be taken out of the their environment of slavery before they could give to the world their great contribution-the gift of nonotheism, or just one God over all.

c. God's people had to be given some tremenduous incentive to enable them to put forth the required effort for freedom. It was the Promised Land in which the justice and mercy and righteousness of God would rule over all.

II. And is not God saying the same thing ~~to/Paid/to/Moses~~ to us in every burning bush of our modern life? To those who are ready to listen, God is saying that all our uncertainty and turmoil and strife of today can be ended even as He directed Moses to end the slavery of the Israelites in Egypt-Go down Moses and tell the pharoh, "Let my people go!"

1. We must free people from the muck and mire of the world's selfish greed and hatred.

a. A new environmentin which force and riches are no longer the reliance of people for safety and security.

Force as a means to the end of peace has failed most miserably.

Riches have not helped to solve the world's problems.

Knossos, the center of a marvelous civilization in Crete long before Athens beca me the mother of Beauty Plumbing excavated there. Comment-"The moral of ~~plumbing~~ Knossos is that good plumbing will not same a nation."

Autos, radios, airplanes and all modern appliances cannot build security and opportunity.

II.1.b. Environment is not enough. Something else is needed. Not that we might have aplenty for all to eat, not merely that we might no longer hear the crack of the overseer's whip, but that we might build a new civilization based upon God's law of right living. The fuller life, the life that satisfies cannot be found in bread alone. We have the outward means of life, but we as yet do not know the right way of living.

We need God at the center of things. We need Jesus' evaluation of life-more precious than all the wealth in the world. We need to go down into our Egypts of slavery and tell the people that God has a promised land readyfor them. The churches need to tell the Pharoahs of the world today in the name of Christ, "Let my people go." that the teachings of the world's greatest philosophers are not all moonshine and mere sentiment- they are cold facts based upon fundamental truth, the truth that God is justice and mercy and righteousness and that all peoples of the earth are his children and are entitled to God's protection and care, whether they are born black, brown yellow or white.

III. But what can we do about it? What power have we Xns living in places of obscurity with such smaall measure of influence? What can we do?

Robt. E Lee after the war

Work like that needs to be done in every village in America. Someone must see the need. Someone must stand where Moses stood and hear the word of God and carry it back to where he lives and cry, "Let my people go!"

It is'nt an easy task. Moses did not find it so. But this is the certainty of it- God is with us even as he was with Moses and the Ismelites.